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To: Committee Members re: HB5515

Preventative healthcare begins with breastfeeding! Billions of dollars are spent each year to treat illnesses that could be prevented if new families chose to breastfeed. For example Obesity and Diabetes – these two diagnoses alone tax our healthcare system to the extreme. According to evidence based research, there are many other illnesses both to baby and mom that are significantly reduced when moms breastfeed.

Therefore, the rights of breastfeeding families need to be protected in order to facilitate their success. Babies were born to breastfeed. It's nature's way and should be encouraged as the norm. Breastfeeding will more likely be viewed as a "normal" part of parenting if mothers are welcomed to nurse their babies in public venues. I believe this will prompt further education on this very important issue

I am the childbirth educator and lactation consultant for our local hospital and feel very strongly about supporting the best start possible for families we serve.

Please support legislation protecting this very basic right of families.

For additional information on this very important topic, please consider referencing the CDC, AAP, ILCA (International Lactation Consultants Association) or ABM (Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine) as well as many other reputable sources.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca G. Morgan